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ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
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FILE ONLY

6:30 P.M.
Effects of Israeli Spy Case

JENNINGS: There is another case of spying very much in the news. Now that the former Navy counterintelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard has pleaded guilty to charges that he spied for Israel, there are any number of reports suggesting a much larger network of spies working for the Israelis in this country.

As our national security correspondent John McWethy reports, the U.S. Government is saying very little.

JOHN MCWETHY: The U.S. Government today built a wall of silence around the Pollard case and the many questions it raises about whether Israel is doing much more spying on the U.S. than it admits.

BERNARD KALB: I will not be in the position of comment on reports or discuss the case further, since it is still under investigation.

MCWETHY: Sources say there is a sharp difference of opinion within the Reagan Administration about what the specifics of the Pollard case actually show. Pollard was paid $45,000 and promised $300,000 more. He visted several safe houses, apparently used only for this operation. He met with at least four Israelis and had a code name.

The complexity and cost of the operation lead some to conclude that the Israeli government had to know about it, support it, and that there must be more such operations.

GEORGE CARVER: The Israelis' hands in this case was caught very deep -- were caught very deeply in our cookie jar, and they could not have gone that deeply without high-level Israeli approval.

MCWETHY: Others, primarily at the State Department, say there is not one shred of evidence beyond what has already been made public that indicates the Pollard case is anything other than the isolated incident the Israelis say it is. Further, officials say without Israeli cooperation the Pollard indictment would not have been possible.

Despite these sharp differences of opinion on what the case shows about Israel, everyone acknowledged that there are powerful political reasons for both Israel and the United States to want it to go away.